

zirconate or aluminate coupling agents, organofunctional silanes, modified silicone fluids and fatty acids and salts thereof.

51. (Added) The method of claim 48 wherein the horticultural crop is selected from actively growing or fruiting agricultural and ornamental crops.

52. (Added) The method of claim 48 wherein the finely divided particulate materials have a median individual particle size below about 3 microns.

53. (Added) The method of claim 48 wherein the hydrophilic core particulate materials are selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, calcined kaolin and mixtures thereof.

REMARKS

Claims 1-53 are pending in the application upon entry of the amendments and new claims. Claims 1, 5 and 12 have been amended for clarification purposes. Claims 17-53 have been added. Favorable reconsideration in light of the amendments, new claims, and the remarks that follow is respectfully requested.

Initially, the Examiner's indication that the subject matter of claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, and 12-16 is allowable is noted with appreciation.

It is noted that new claim 17 contains the subject matter of claim 1 and allowable claim 2. New claim 29 contains the subject matter of claim 1 and allowable claim 3. New claim 38 contains the subject matter of claim 1 and allowable claim 5. New claim 48 contains the subject matter of claim 1 and allowable claim 6. Claims 18-28, 30-37, 39-47 and 49-53 are sets of dependent claims, each of which generally corresponds to claims 2-14 (with several deletions).

Claims 1, 4, 8, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Eastin (U.S. Patent 5,628,144). Claims 1, 4, 8, 10, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Eastin. Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the allowable subject of claim 12 therein. As a result, the rejection is rendered moot.

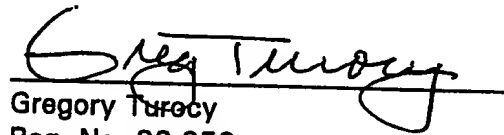
Claim 5 has been amended for clarification purposes by specifying that "%" refers to % by weight. This amendment is supported in the specification, for example, on page 7, line 4.

Enclosed with this paper is new Declaration, revised in the manner suggested by the Examiner. It is pointed out that two of the three inventors have executed and dated the Declaration. Another new Declaration, revised in the manner suggested by the Examiner, will be submitted to the Patent Office when the third (of three) inventor is available to execute and date the document. It is anticipated that this will occur within the next two weeks.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,
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